

A. F. U. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION

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A REVERIE

Today I'm pumping water at the well,
And gazing south across the sunlit sky,
I hear the drone of planes that shuttle past.
As one by one they learn the way to fly.

The background is a field of azure blue
With masses of cloud in front of frothy white,
The washday of the Gods, of every hue,
In preparation for the coming fight.

The heavens above are like a giant loom,
The planes perform the part of warp and woof
As in and out they go, and dart and zoom
And barrel roll and sometimes loop the loop.

Like unto Gods these Riders of the Sky,
These lads of ours who throw their lives in pawn.
May God above Who grieves alone on high
Be merciful, and see them to the Dawn.

A. J. Sibley,
North Battleford, Sask.

WHY CO-OPERATION FALTERS

There seems to be a common urge in all mankind to get a piece of land and make a home for himself there. A place where he can exercise his own energy, initiative and enterprise without being restricted or hampered by any annoying rules laid down by others. This does not mean that an individual who desires such an opportunity would necessarily be a primitive savage and unwilling to co-operate with his neighbors. As a matter of fact it seems as if the word co-operation has had a wrong interpretation put upon it. Instead of it being regarded as a spontaneous getting together for mutual benefit it is becoming visualized as a compulsory form of society in which people are going to be forced together and tied by certain hide-bound rules on the assumption that they have not got brains enough to do their own planning; while those business-like individuals who aim to be in control will do the planning, very much for their own profit.

Co-Operation Not Regimentation.

The spontaneous informal co-operation which was manifested, and probably still is, by settlers opening up a new district deserves only praise and commendation; but there seems a disposition on the part of some of the disciples of the professional co-operative cult to think that one cannot be a co-operator unless one relinquishes every individual desire and becomes a more or less unwilling member of many and various organizations, one of the principal requirements of which seems to be that one can no longer have personal desires of any kind without having capitalistic tendencies, and in order to meet the approval of the "head" of the co-operatives one must be a drab unimaginative individual with no higher aspirations to the manner of living his life than is allowed to the work horse, — a good stable, food and water, and a good master.

Now people are inspired to go on the land in order to get away from such conditions as outlined; but that does not mean that they do not wish to co-operate. The ideal co-operation should represent the greatest measure of human liberty. To get together when there is some mutual benefit to be accomplished and then to return to the personal and family liberty when the spontaneous demands or claims of co-operative effort have been satisfied or effected.

The comparatively slow progress which has been made by organized commercial co-operatives points either to something lacking in its first set-up or else the development of some flaw. It is not good publicity to claim rapid progress when

the figures show that only 2% of the business has been obtained in 100 years.

While a measure of success has been attained this only brings into greater prominence the fact that FINANCE is MASTER in the economic world and complete Co-operative success can NEVER be attained until finance is relegated to its proper position as a SERVANT of both PRODUCTION and distribution.

The driving energy shown by the pioneer co-operators who were seeking fundamental reform, if necessary, seems to have been either lost or never assimilated by those who have been placed in charge of the business end of our commercial co-operatives and instead of going on from victory to victory in a grand fight for the emancipation of the workers, they have sunk into a smug hypocrisy which while calling upon all their patrons to give their loyal support to the movement, for the sake of the "spiritual" uplift, in spite of the sacrifices entailed, yet they themselves are willing to pocket all the "material" benefits and are not wishing to make any sacrifices themselves or even try to understand the spirit which initiated the crusade in the first place.

It was a crusade against poverty. A poverty which was unnecessary because those who were able to analyse the old system could see some of the loop holes and leaks in it, and sought to remedy them by the co-operative effort. That they were partially correct in their diagnosis is proved by some of the results which have been accomplished. A better grade of goods for the same price or a lower price for the same grade of goods. This is good but it is only a palliative. What we want is a remedy. Those who are now in control of the co-op's have not got the fierce spirit of progressiveness which is essential to attain the new heights. The rank and file are chafing at the inaction and have been awaiting leadership from those who have been appointed to head the different organizations; but these show an inability or disinclination to give it. The rank and file, however, are not satisfied and are determined that the co-operative effort must fight to remove all the obstacles which up to the present have stood in the way of its success.

Finance Stifles Co-Operation.

I think most of us have come to the conclusion that poverty or shortage of real wealth is entirely unnecessary in this country from now on. The co-operatives must mobilize their power and insist that the plentitude of goods on every hand both from and for the producer and consumer

must be equated by sufficient purchasing power or tickets to enable these goods to be readily exchanged. If sufficient tickets are not forthcoming from the present source, then, these co-operatives must unitedly insist, and they will have the combined and enthusiastic might of all their patrons behind them that they shall, through a co-operative bank, have the right to issue sufficient monetary units to exchange the goods' units at a satisfactory price level. Continued failure on the part of the co-operatives to advocate that this is essential shows that those who are at present in authority not only do not understand the situation but by their persistent refusal to recognize this fact are an effective block to the realization of the highest development of the co-operative effort.

Finance must distribute the fruits of production in a satisfactory manner because the aim of ALL production (even co-operative production) should be Consumption.

G. B.

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(We invite criticism of this article from every angle as it is meant for education purposes. It is not an attack on the principle of co-operation but is a sincere criticism of what in the writer's opinion is the lack of enterprize shown by those presently in control of commercial co-operatives (both membership as well as executive) in an effort to spur them on, and to again engender that spirit of energetic determination which imbued the pioneers in the movement with the aim of—

- (a) abolishing poverty and unfair profits
- (b) eliminating exorbitant interest rates
- (c) raise the standard of living for ALL the people (especially the patrons of the Co-operatives).

G. B.

Calls Financial Paper To Time Re Recent Criticism

**Some of Its Friends Most Successful in
"Keeping Farmers' Costs Up"**

FARMERS SEEK EQUITY

**Can't Solve Problems by Dividing People Into
Two Camps,**

States Hannam

Ottawa, Ontario.

Strong exception has been taken by H. H. Hannam, President and Managing Director of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, to the editorial opinion expressed by the Financial Post of Toronto respecting the new floor price legislation

for agricultural products, appearing in the August 19th issue of the Post.

The editorial emphasized that since Canada was an exporting country in agricultural production, that was the controlling factor in fixing farmers' Prices, and wound up with the following statement:

"Instead of worrying about keeping future farm and other prices jacked up to some artificial level, it would be far better if we concentrated on keeping costs down so that in natural lines of production Canadian goods can meet world competition."

"It would be interesting to know," said Mr. Hannam, of the Federation of Agriculture, "just exactly what the Financial Post had in mind. We presume the advice is for everybody, but on the other hand it singles out farm prices for special mention.

"When the Post speaks about keeping future farm and other prices jacked up to some artificial level, what does it mean? Is there a natural level for farm prices any more? We presume the Financial Post has been in favor of the general price ceiling in our wartime program. That has been a policy of keeping prices jacked DOWN to an artificial level, because certainly they would have gone much higher if artificial means of price control had not been employed. Does the Financial Post go all-out in its support of fixing an artificially low price when prices naturally would go higher and then turn around and condemn any attempt at price control to provide minimum security for large numbers of our citizens at a time when prices are apt to go disastrously low?

Costs Farmer Doesn't Control

"The Post says it would be far better if we concentrated on keeping costs down. Undoubtedly it would be a good thing in our economy if all industry and business and finance would together concentrate on keeping costs down, but in order to be fair to all, these costs must be balanced on an equitable basis. The farmer is told he should keep his costs down and he knows that is good advice. There are a few costs the farmer can control and he is responsible for those, but there are a large number entering into farm production which the farmer does not control. There is interest on debts, insurance premiums, farm equipment, etc. Does the Financial Post agree that all of these costs should likewise be kept well down?

"Most people believe that the Financial Post has some good friends who are extraordinarily successful in keeping their rates and charges — which are the farmers' costs — up. And certainly some of the latter are kept up above natural levels and also above the level of world competition."

"Then the Post argues that in natural lines

of production Canadian goods should meet world competition. What does it mean by 'natural lines'? Does it mean that farm products and other primary products are natural lines? If so, does the Post believe that producers of primary products should keep their prices down to meet world competition and that producers of secondary products, for example manufacturers, must not be expected to meet world competition?

Can't Divide Into Two Camps

"Surely the Financial Post would not suggest that we are going to solve the problems of the post-war world by dividing our people into two camps, squeezing one group down to meet world competition, no matter where that is, and setting up another group with special privileges who can maintain their economic returns on a higher level and who are not asked to meet world competition."

Mr. Hannam declares farmers must not be exploited "to maintain artificially high returns for certain interests."

F. C. A. A. UNSATISFACTORY

Need for Action Fund

We would like our locals to consider the following account of the manner in which an appeal was dealt with under the Farmers Creditors Arrangement Act in connection with the proposal to build up an Action Fund which was submitted by Local No. 418 and printed in the Alberta Farmers' Union Bulletin of June.

Many of the cases submitted under the Farmers Creditors Arrangement Act for proposals were deemed to be unworthy of consideration at first sight; but upon closer examination an entirely different picture was presented.

The following case is just such an example.

In this case the decision of the District Court Judge was as follows:

FIRST DECISION.

"I find that the applicant is not a competent farmer, that through incompetence and neglect or mismanagement his affairs are in such a hopeless state that he has no prospect of ever paying his debts even with a very large deduction, as the indebtedness on his property and that of his son is very nearly but not quite five times the value of his land according to the independent valuation. I therefore decline to make a proposal."

However, the case was appealed and during the appeal many facts were brought out which had not been revealed at first and these put an entirely different aspect on the case.

Some of these points are as follows:

"The applicant is a fine old man. He is honest and is very anxious to get matters straightened out as far as his debts are concerned. Although he is 76 years of age he still takes keen interest in the farming operations and does most of the farm yard chores himself."

And further as to his reputation in the district:

"He is honest and highly respected by all. Has worked hard all his life and tries to get along."

This reveals the necessity of the farmer being properly represented so that all the factors in his favour shall be adequately brought out.

The report further states:

"Both sons have sufficient power and equipment to work the land well, and the farm is in a good state of cultivation. The applicant's wife died in 1929 and since that time the sons have operated the farm. As pointed out the district has had repeated crop failures or poor crops. His present financial position is through no fault of his own, but due to poor crops and sickness."

The Appeal Court Judge in his comments also adds the following:

"I also knew what the learned District Court Judge did not know, that this particular township in which the land is located is one which suffered greatly during a long period of years and one from which a large number of applications had come before the Board of Review under the old Act."

"This case illustrates some of the difficulties and dangers in the administration of the Act of 1943."

"Under the former Act I would say that fully 90 per cent of the debtors appeared before the Board of Review without counsel, and as a rule the creditor appeared in person or, if a corporation, by its agent. It is likely that under the new Act both debtor and creditor will more often be represented by counsel, but in any event the task is as a rule going to be difficult and the responsibility great for all Judges who are called upon to administer same.

It is important that when a proposal is made it should be fair to both debtor and creditor as far as that is possible, and again it is a serious matter to refuse a debtor a proposal if in fact he is entitled to one for in the end it means he will be dispossessed of his land and home — a result that is deplorable if unmerited. In stating as aforesaid I am speaking not only as Judge of Appeal under the Act but as a former chief commissioner of the Board of Review with many years of experience in the work. As an Appeal Judge I am anxious to avoid appeals, and as a former commissioner I am speaking as one who knows of the difficulties involved."

"In the present instance in the light of all

the evidence I am of opinion the debtor is entitled to a proposal."

The Appeal Court Judge then gave his decision which cut the debts in half, reduced the interest to 6 per cent, cancelled the claim of the Municipality against the old man's pension and also the back taxes claim was considerably reduced.

The adjustments made by this Appeal Court Judge after a Proposal was first refused indicate what the Alberta Farmers' Union has in view in employing a counsel to secure amendments to

the present Farmer Creditors Arrangement Act.

We wish the Order in Council which keeps efficient farmers on land during war time only, to be made a permanent feature of the Act, and our Counsel is making recommendations to the proper authorities to have the new Act so amended that the necessary changes will be made.

The creation of our Action Fund is for the purpose of pressing to the limit any action that may be necessary in order that the law shall be amended, where required, so as to give debtor farmers proper consideration.

VETERANS' BRIEF

The following is a copy of the brief presented to the Prime Minister and members of the government at Ottawa by a deputation of veterans of the First Great War requesting that a clear title be given to those old soldiers or their dependents who are still on the land.

Thousands of signatures were affixed by members of the Alberta Farmers' Union to the Petition which was sent out and we have received a grateful acknowledgement for the assistance given by our Union from Mr. A. J. Sibley, the secretary of the Soldier Settlers Association of Canada.

BRIEF TO GOVERNMENT

Gentlemen:-

In presenting our Petition and Brief we wish to point out that this is the first time that an organized body of Veterans who are Soldier Settlers have presented their case. Our objective is to bring about a permanent solution of the Soldier Settlement problem as between the Canadian Government and Veteran Settlers of Great War I who settled on land under an agreement with the Soldier Settlement Board of Canada.

We submit that we, who are all of us Veterans of that war and survived that bloody carnage, are entitled to as much consideration as was given to the supervisors and staff of the Soldier Settlement Board who were, on the advice of Brig. Gen. Alex Ross, CMG, DSO, taken into the Civil Service and after a period of years superannuated with sufficient to provide them with security and freedom from fear and want during the rest of their lives. Brig. Gen. Alex Ross, CMG, DSO, in presenting their case based his appeal on the grounds of their war services followed by their faithful service in the Soldier Settlement Board after the conclusion of Great War I. Surely, then, we Soldier Settlers who also faithfully performed our duty during that campaign, are equally entitled to the consideration of the Canadian Government.

We ask that, instead of superannuation, we be given instead, a Clear Title to our lands held under the Soldier Settlement Board and that widows of Veteran Settlers and their children (next-of-kin) shall be given the same kind of consideration. In those cases where lands have changed hands, restitution shall be made based on the assessed value of each and every one of these properties. All of this to be retroactive to September 3rd, 1939—the date of the commencement of the present war. It is understood that only bona-fide Veteran Soldier Settlers and their widows and children are to be considered. It shall not apply to those who may have acquired Soldier Settlement Board lands by civilian purchase and are classed as Soldier Settlers under the Soldier Settlement Act. Indeed, many of these are not yet in possession of naturalization papers!

Out of a large number of the Veterans who returned from that war, 25,017 chose agriculture, some of them returning to the homesteads that they had previously to 1914, patented. These are the men who are now known all over the West as the Soldier Settlers under the administration of the Soldier Settlement Board. This Department's chief function was to help the Veteran accomplish the ultimate ownership, within a reasonable period of time, of his home in the Country for which he fought during Great War I. Have they succeeded in accomplishing this? We shall see.

As at recent date there were 6,153 of these Veterans and their families remaining of the original 25,017. These survivors are now much older and also much sadder and wiser, and yet, such is the deplorable situation today, that not a single person holding an administrative position has had either the common sense or courage to say that these Settlers have faced an impossible task. To the contrary they have for years endeavored by threats and persecution and seizure, to force them to give quit-claims to their homes

in the Canada they had fought for so gallantly! After re-valuation, these farms are sold, often to Aliens at less than 50% of their former Soldier Settlement Board loan value. From the period of September 1st, 1939, to December 31st, 1943, 2,418 Settlers left their farms, or were put off, being an average of 606 per annum in $4\frac{1}{4}$ years. If this rate is maintained there will be no Soldier Settlers left in another five years!

The original loan placed at the disposal of the Soldier Settlement Board was \$109,034,331. Soldier Settlers have repaid up to December 31, 1942:

In Principal	\$43,264,734.84
In Interest	\$24,056,711.45

Total	\$67,321,446.29
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Total Indebtedness at December 31st, 1943, \$8,684,553.00. Aggregate salaries paid to Soldier Settlement Board Officials over same period, i. e., up to December 31st, 1942, are as follows:

Administration—

Salaries	\$20,325,246.85
Other than Salaries	\$10,243,534.48

Aggregate	\$30,568,781.33
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Surely these figures speak for themselves.

It should be here noted that the Dollar for Dollar scheme was not only for Veterans, but all those farming under the Soldier Settlement Board. Civilian purchasers, many of whom were German ex-soldiers who had fought against us, thus received the same help. It cannot then be properly said that it was a special concession to Veterans. The proposed extension of all Soldier Settlement Board contracts as provided for by Order-in-Council 10,472 called for a further 20 year period. Seeing that a large number of Soldier Settlers are nearing 70 years of age makes it impossible for any such person ever to complete his contract and thereby obtain secure possession of his land. In support of the contention we would refer to your Study Bulletin No. 64 by The Farm Management Department, College of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan. This is a basis of assessments for all farm lands of Saskatchewan. The Dollar for Dollar bonus scheme of the early Thirties was only a partial success inasmuch as it gave to those who had the money to take advantage of it and took away from those who had not. The access of Soldier Settlers to the Farmers Creditors Arrangement Act was worse because it only added to Public Expenses, still leaving the Soldier Settlers in a position where they are at the mercy of crop failures and price conditions and consequent interest accumulations over which the Settler never has had any control.

Therefore we think that the proper solution is to give these Veterans Clear Titles to their homes. Given that, we should need no more sup-

ervision or administration which has cost the country in each of the past 25 years an average of $1\frac{1}{4}$ millions of dollars per annum.

The present War Veterans' Land Act although carrying a lower rate of interest than that of 1919, must end in failure if it carries any rate of interest whatever unless parity prices are established upon all the crops grown by the new settlers. We have found out during our past 25 years of struggle that under the present system of fluctuating prices it is impossible to pay interest and principal, especially when the interest is so often compounded. We would advise instead of establishing a new Soldier Settlement scheme that Credits be made available to all men and women members of the Armed Forces who have served outside of Canada of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the first year of service, and Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each additional month of service, and that this amount be due to all members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force and their auxiliaries, irrespective of rank. By doing this any Veteran might use the credit to establish himself or herself in any business they choose and none could say as they did to the Soldier Settlers of 1919 that they received something for nothing.

In conclusion, we present this Petition with its thousands of signaturees as indicative of a cross section of Veteran and Civilian opinion from the four Western Canadian Provinces. It has entailed during the past winter the travelling of thousands of miles under adverse conditions. In addition we have secured the unanimous support of the Alberta Legislature, the 20,000 members of the Alberta Farmers' Union, The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, The United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section), and the United Farmers of Alberta.

And so, gentlemen, we rest our case, believing that we have right on our side and hoping that we shall receive justice.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

What was the attitude of our "Democratic" Dominion Government to those who had fought to preserve "Democracy"? We cannot do better than reproduce an extract from an Editorial in the Western Producer of 22nd June, which follows:-

AFTER THE WAR IS OVER!!!

Even before this delegation set out for the East the ranking official of the Soldier Settlement Board, the individual who had probably most to do with the new Veterans' Land Act, wrote an article. He wrote it under the express authorization of Mr. Crerar. Strangely enough it got pride of place in the May issue of The Legionary in which it was published. Its sole

purpose is, on the one hand, to discredit the Soldier Settlers' organization and, on the other, to set forth the magnanimity, even generosity, with which successive governments have treated soldier settlers. That such an impudent and so grossly misleading an article should have been written by a leading civil servant and should have been printed with evident approval by the national organ of the Legon need not be commented on here. This civil servant with the arrogance characteristic of the new bureaucracy insolently prejudices the case and takes it upon himself not only to dismiss the delegation before it is heard but also to brush parliament aside as if it didn't exist. That he does precisely this is made clear in his final paragraph which reads:

"In conclusion I am authorized to say that the proposal of the Soldier Settlers is not deemed to be in the public interest and consequently, it is not being entertained by the Government. Therefore, the best advice I can offer to the Soldier Settlers concerned is to get into step with those who manifestly prefer securing title to their farms by complying with the terms of their agreements."

The type of mind which indulges in this insolent and intolerable attitude is the same mentality which is charged with drafting and administering the Veterans' Land Act. What a Prospect!

Our readers, as we have stated, should be familiar with the almost incredible hardships which resulted from the old act. Perhaps, however, we may be allowed to quote yet another excerpt from Hansard which gives the result of one small project. The questions were asked by Victor Quelch, Social Credit M.P. for Acadia, and were answered by Hon. T. A. Crerar. Here they are:-

Question: What was the cost to the Dominion government of the following lands that were sold to soldier settlers in 1920: sections 6, 13, 14, 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ 16, 22, 23, 24, of range 18, township 33, west of 4, and sections 32, 30, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 26, 23, 22, W $\frac{1}{2}$ 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, and N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 13, of range 18, township 32, west of 4?

Answer: Nil.

Q: What was the total initial price charged the settlers for above lands?

A: \$144,180.00 not including W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 13, the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of N.W. 13, the N $\frac{1}{2}$ 14, the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. E. 14, S.E. 24 and the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. W. 23, all in township 33, range 18 W 4th, all of which were withdrawn from the control of the soldier settlement board.

Q: What was the average price per acre?

A: \$16.38.

Q: What is the total debt of soldier settlers or members of veterans' guard still resident on these lands?

A: \$35,448.30.

Q: How many soldiers originally settled on these lands?

A: Forty.

Q: How many have paid for their land in full?

A: Three.

Q: How many have abandoned their land?

A: Seventeen.

Q: How many still are resident?

A: Thirteen.

Q: How many are in the Veterans' Guard but still hold their land?

A: Four.

It is time that the whole people awakened to the seriousness of the situation into which they are drifting. If men who stand up and defend the iniquities of the old S. S. B. are allowed to have anything to do with new settlement schemes then they are damned before they are begun. There must be a thorough house-cleaning and a fundamentally new approach before there can be any hope of even moderate success.

* * * *

SUBSTITUTE FOR MONEY

Evidence by Mr. Graham Towers before the Banking and Commerce Committee, 1939. (Page 265).

Question: When you allow the merchant banking system to issue bank deposits—with the practice of using cheques—you virtually allow the banks to issue an effective substitute for money, do you not?

Mr. Towers: The bank deposits are actually money in that sense.

Question: As a matter of fact they are not actually money but credit, bookkeeping accounts, which are used as a substitute for money?

Mr. Towers: Yes.

Question: Then we authorize the banks to issue a substitute for money?

Mr. Towers: Yes, I think that is a very fair statement of banking.

EXECUTIVES' INCOMES UP

From 1939 to the end of 1943, salaries of executives of 85 important Canadian corporations rose by upwards of 40 per cent. In 1939, annual reports of these companies showed an average of just over \$13,000 per year paid to 403 executives; in 1943 the average had risen to over \$17,800.

Is this "inflation" or just a return to "normalcy?"

A donation to the Flood Fund in the last issue of the Bulletin was printed from Local No. 587 which should have been from Local No. 586.

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Editorial

Within the past thirty years two great wars have been waged for the "preservation of democracy" or "our way of life" as Churchill puts it.

During those two war periods there has been a "peace" period sandwiched in between and it might not do any harm to take a review and just examine these three periods to find out how "democracy" behaved during these periods and just what "our way of life" is. Does it mean the same thing to all of us, and if not, why not? because democracy is supposed to be in essence, government in accordance with the WILL of the people.

Previous to the beginning of the First World War it was almost impossible for the working man to even "buy a job" and economic conditions under "our democracy" were not very rosy.

However, our people believed in the personal "liberty" which this system professed to extend to them and it is even possible that the liberty to "starve" which was an outstanding manifestation of the times might have overcome an unwillingness to fight for a system that seemed scarcely worth saving.

However, the boys went overseas to make the world "safe for democracy" and in looking back to that period many of them admit that the only time during which they were "economically secure" in this democracy of ours was when they were risking their lives in fighting the military enemy.

Those who came back and took up farms so as to enjoy the land which they had fought to make "fit for heroes to live in" found out to their sorrow that there were two ends to the workings of the S. S. B. Act; and the veteran who took up land got the short end.

The democracy which they thought they had fought for could not offer them as much security as they enjoyed while fighting and instead of being in close comradeship with their chums as when they were fighting the military enemy they were scattered throughout the wide west to eke out a "living" in solitude so that their chances of fighting the administrative enemy was small.

They have lived long enough to see the democracy for which they thought they were fighting fade away and culminate into the most devastating depression ever experienced.

Then came the present war and their sons were called upon to take up the fight again.

Now ordinary people just naturally feel that any benefits which emanate from our country and the form of government we have should be enjoyed by those who fought successfully for it and if the majority of people could have the opportunity to express their opinion on the matter they would say that a fair proportion of the benefits of democracy "belong" to those who fought to make it safe.

But the administrative side of the S. S. B. acts as if it holds contrary views and so the veteran soldiers of the First World War have been told by the Administrator in Chief that they must fulfil well nigh impossible conditions before they can receive even a token acknowledgement from a grateful country.

As minister in charge Mr. Crerar is treating the returned veterans of the First World War in a manner which is revolting to every right thinking man and woman. He gave his word to the delegation that the Government would seriously consider their representations. At the same time he had already authorized an article which stated that no further consideration would be given.

What are the prospects for the future? We understand Mr. Crerar intends to resign and that a seat will be found for him in the Senate. If the Senate represents the burial ground of the blasted hopes of democracy, it is a fitting place for him.

Mr. Murchison, however, remains as the Director of the Veterans' Land Act. Can the electorate of this country, most of whom either are or have kinsfolk taking part in this war, expect any regulations to be administered in a sympathetic and understanding way by an individual with this record?

Our returned veterans should have a chance to become possessed of a piece of the land they are fighting to save on terms that are equitable but if those who have been responsible for the administration of S. S. B. policies in the past are left in charge then their chances are very slim.

Such an important issue should only be decided by a full representation of the Cabinet and not left to any minority representation of those who sit on the Treasury Board of which Mr. Crerar is one. If all decisions affecting the welfare of the people of Canada are to be subject to the decisions of those who put financial consideration above all others then the returning veterans of this war can look for an even worse deal than that realized by their fathers before them.

"Our Way of Life" 1930-39

Lest We Forget, Lest We Forget

WHEREAS the present war has proved that the men and women who are at present engaged in the armed forces are not needed for production as we seem to be able to produce enough to get along on without them,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that returned veterans who are single shall be compelled to go to work camps where their pay shall be not more than 20c per day with board, in order to keep down financial expenditures.

Married veterans who cannot get a job shall be compelled to work for the city or municipality as labourers; and only provided with tools of the most primitive type in order to make the work last as long as possible so as to overcome the unemployment menace, and prevent over-production.

Their pay shall consist of meal tickets for themselves and family, only the barest necessities being supplied. The State (City or Municipality) will undertake to pay the rent for their houses, insisting that these be cheap even if otherwise not fit for human habitation.

Account shall be kept of all work done and wherever the supplying of food and shelter costs exceeds the low wages earned, the excess shall be charged up against the veteran so that if in the future he can get a remunerative job, he can be compelled to pay back any deficiency, that may have accrued against him.

Returned veterans who cannot get jobs and refuse to go to work, whether fit for it or not,

shall not be allowed to stay around towns or cities in order to get relief, for more than 24 hours.

Any transient caught looking for a job in any town or city where there is already some unemployment, shall be given 24 hours in which to leave the city.

In order to prevent transients from roaming the country in search of work, any man caught riding the rods or freights, shall be sent to a work camp.

Any person who has received any clothing relief shall be forbidden to wash it more than once every two weeks as this would involve the wasteful use of soap and unfair wear on the material.

By following these few simple rules it is estimated we can save hundreds of millions of dollars annually and bring production down to the point where the financial credit issued by the bankers will be sufficient.

* * * *

This resolution is submitted with the idea that it will provide a way to carry on after this war (and until the next one starts) so as to make possible the pensions and rehabilitation schemes at present proposed by Mr. Ian MacKenzie and his colleagues, and will also show how Mr. Ilsley's plans to fight inflation (of goods and services as well as financial) can be put into effect by subjecting the capacity of Canada's tremendous production to the rigorous and unyielding control of the bankers' financial policy as demonstrated by them from 1930 - 1939.

A Financial Patriot.

Efficient Production

"Let the wealthy and great
Roll in splendor and State,
I envy them not, I declare it.
I eat my own lamb,
My chickens and ham,
I shear my own fleece and I wear it.
I have lawns, I have bowers,
I have fruits, I have flowers,
The lark is my morning alarmer.
So jolly boys now,
Here's God speed the plow,
Long life and success to the farmer."

This is a very old English verse that means much to us today. Our duty is to preserve our lives, to live as long as we can and ensure a successful and prosperous farm community. The greater the degree of individual freedom we can obtain, the longer we shall live. Not only live

longer, but enjoy a more abundant life. I am sure of one thing. There is no occupation that is capable of giving such a high degree of individual freedom with such security as agriculture. Yet most of us are but slaves to a system. Now, either systems were made to serve man, or man was made to serve systems. The professional politicians believe the present financial and economic systems must be preserved and strengthened at all costs. To their minds, human beings must be made to adapt themselves, their mode of life, their whole being, to this outworn, diabolical economic system, which we can all see has resulted in poverty and wretchedness, insecurity and debt, fear and worry, crime and insanity and all the ills suffered by humanity in a world of potential abundance. These professional politicians are determined that even though the wealth

of the world is destroyed and millions of lives lost forever, this system must be preserved. This is the work of the Devil. It is evil; it is wrong.

TRUE FREEDOM.

I am certain that the only reason why we farmers are not given "Parity Prices" is that by permitting us to possess sufficient money to enable us to become free and independent, the fight to preserve this present evil economic system would be lost. Remember this, the present economic system was designed for a purpose and that purpose is to force all people into giving up the struggle for individual freedom and submit to a world power of self chosen rulers. The evidence is everywhere to prove this. Our fight therefore, is not confined to our local community or to Alberta, or to Canada. It is a world conflict between the forces of Christianity on the one hand and Paganism on the other. We can call these forces Right and Wrong, or Good and Evil. I am also certain that the final battle will be won by the forces of Right, — and the farming community, those living closest to Nature, will take the most active part in the winning of this fight to freedom and justice for all.

Our duty then, is to co-operate with our neighbours in demanding Parity Prices for all farm produce. You can imagine what would happen if we ever received Parity Prices. First we would be able to employ help at good wages and having more help, the hours of farm work would be materially reduced. We would begin to buy better implements and equipment and this in turn would stimulate industry, automatically solving the unemployment problem. This is so simple a solution that it is beyond the comprehension of those orthodox economists who think that such a tremendous problem can only be solved by very intricate and complicated methods. In fact, all our so called economic problems are easily and simply solved if we do not insist that this evil man-made system now existing be preserved, remembering always that it is not the duty of humanity to preserve a system, but to preserve human life and freedom and ensure security to all. Parity Prices will do just that. We must continue to fight on, never for one moment relaxing our efforts to obtain just and fair prices.

PEOPLE'S WILL MUST PREVAIL.

How can we best do this? "In numbers there is strength." So get your neighbours to join this Union. A united people can demand and get any result they desire, for the opposing forces are unable to prevent it. That is why the forces of evil are in such a great hurry to establish international controls for fear some nation will free themselves from this system and set a good example which the peoples of other nations would soon clamour to follow. We are lagging

behind in this fight, for we have not been informed of these matters, trusting those we have elected to watch over our interests, leaving our business in the hands of unscrupulous politicians who have and are today, betraying the faith and trust we placed in them. We must be careful of our own organization, for when it begins to reach into thousands, the individual begins to lose control and we find ourselves serving the system, the organization again, just as we are now serving the present economic system. That is why we have locals and we should also have sub-locals. The sub-locals should consist of only about ten members and ten of these sub-locals would form the District locals of about 100 members, more or less. It can be seen that the members of sub-locals can hold meetings at any time, rain or shine will not make any difference. It merely means going over to the neighbours for a visit. Here the regular monthly meeting of the sub-local can be held (at any time) where the decisions with regard to policy are made. A chairman is appointed to attend the regular monthly meeting of the District local, which consists of ten chairmen from ten sub-locals and convey the decisions of the sub-local members to the chairmen of the other sub-local groups. The ten appointed chairmen can arrange to meet at any home or pre-arranged place at very little expense. At this meeting, open to all members of course, the usual business is carried on with efficiency and again a chairman is appointed to attend a meeting with nine other District chairmen, and so on all the way along until ten chairmen are finally appointed to attend the Provincial Convention. Here, I feel sure is the most democratic system anyone could devise. It will be opposed only by those who seek to hold office, and no doubt we have that type with us, as have all organizations. The great value of this method of organization is that the individual is not submerged, but elevated to the top, for all chairmen are appointed for no specified time and can be changed at a moment's notice, or from month to month. The small group of ten know who is the best chairman to appoint and so it goes on, step by step to the President and all officers of the Union. The saving would amount to thousands of dollars annually. No need to rent expensive buildings, no need to pay out hotel bills for hundreds of delegates, no need to pay for more than a dozen railway fares. Yet every individual is represented at this annual convention and instead of hundreds of resolutions to be dealt with, a few only are brought forward by the ten chairmen, for these resolutions have been brought together at each meeting and consolidated.

CONTROL FROM BOTTOM UP.

Unless some such formation as this is adopted I can already see the possibility of this

Union going the way all other farm organizations have gone in the past. It can be saved from this disaster by this method of organization. It is useless to expect to use the same old methods of organization and obtain a different result. Yet we are using exactly the same methods of organization that proved fatal to the old U. F. A. It can be expected that those who love prominence and publicity, the office seekers, are the ones who will seek to be elected from now on. They are not the right type to lead an organization such as this. But we can get the right type of men and women by the method outlined briefly here.

Let us take the Wheat Pool for example. The individual co-operating has little or no control over this organization. Never has. This organization has been in existence for years, yet we are not getting Parity Prices for our grains. It is the same with almost all our farm organizations, most of which are operated for the benefit of those operating them. That is true. You know it is true. Yet there is nothing wrong with co-operating with one another. The dangers lie in permitting these organizations to get out of the hands of the individuals co-operating. As I pointed out to you some time ago, the co-operative movement is like a loaded gun. It can be used by those getting control of it for their own selfish ends. Let us therefore, control this Alberta Farmers' Union from the bottom up, never for one moment permit those at the top to control you. Get busy, organize your sub-locals and write to me for additional details.

(To be continued)

P. H. Ashby.

Change in Radio Time

The Alberta Farmers' Union will be going on the air again in the near future and we would like you to inform all your members of the change in time.

Commencing October 17th. Each Tuesday Evening 10:15 - 10:30 CJCA Edmonton.

Commencing October 21st. Each Saturday Evening 7:45 - 8:00 CFCN Calgary.

Commencing October 19th. Each Thursday Evening 8:30 - 8:45 CFGP Grande Prairie.

Our President Mr. Jas. Jackson has made arrangements to deliver some of these broadcasts and his talks will be recorded on a disc so that you will have a chance to hear his voice. Other talks will be given by other members of the Union or by the Secretary.

If you have not sent in your donations to the Radio Fund, please do so as soon as possible.

TRUCK POSTERS

In response to a request from some of our members who wish to have a display card on their trucks for the purpose of advertising our Union, the Executive has had 1,000 such cards printed.

These cards measure 14 x 21 inches and are attractively printed in Red and Black type of a large size. The cardboard is well waxed on both sides so as to resist the weather and should last long enough until all our non-union farmers have joined the Union.

We are sending one poster to each small local and two to larger locals free and they should be put on trucks doing the most farm hauling and additional posters can be obtained for 10c each.

Put one of these cards on your trucks and let the world know you are a UNION FARMER.

The following is a fac-simile of the card.

ATTENTION FARMERS

join the

Alberta Farmers' Union

TO-DAY

For information apply to the
Secretary

**102 LaFleche Building
EDMONTON**

RADIO DONATIONS

Sept. 8th. Ballantine Local No. 445,	
Meadowview Local No. 418, Cherhill	
Local No. 255	\$30.00
Sept. 27th. Local No. 27	25.00
Sept. 28th. Smoky Lake Toporoutz	
Local No. 350	60.00
Local No. 62250

"How To Conduct a Public Meeting" Booklet

Many of our secretaries have written us requesting direction for the proper rules and procedure in conducting meetings.

We have had a booklet printed describing procedure in plain and simple language, so that meetings can be conducted without loss of time and yet in an orderly manner giving everyone a chance to speak.

One of these booklets is being sent from Head Office free and additional copies may be obtained for 10c each.

CORRESPONDENCE

We print below letters which have been exchanged between our Union and the National Farmers' Union of Great Britain.

June 30th, 1944.

President, National Farmers' Union,
London, England.

Dear Sir:-

Through the kindness of a friend I have received a copy of the Farmer and Stock Breeder of 25th January, 1944, containing an account of the general meeting of the National Farmers' Union at which you were elected President and Mr. Turner, Vice-President.

Allow me to congratulate you on such a position because I believe it will be one that will exert a larger degree of influence on world economics as well as British policies in the future than at any time in the past.

In 1939 the United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section) was formed, being in the nature of a sister organization to the United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section), and is now the Alberta Farmers' Union and we speedily adopted the slogan of Parity Prices for Farm Products, which means to us that we should receive as much money for our goods as will enable us to buy an equal amount of produce as we were able to do in a certain selected base period that was chosen by common consent with the Government. An approximate parity is what we are striving for and we are willing to accept any reasonable basis for a start.

However, our main point is that we shall try by economic and political pressure to ensure a fair price for our produce.

We thoroughly agree with the remarks made by Mr. R. S. Hudson about one year ago that the only result of getting cheap wheat from Canada and the U. S. A. was to impoverish the soil and farmers who grew it and bankrupt the British farmer into whose country it was imported.

We do not believe that a sound economy can be built on a poverty-stricken agriculture and acting on what are now well known facts, i. e.,

in the final analysis international trade is based on the exchange of goods for goods or services, we believe that it is quite possible for Canada to pay Canadian farmers a Canadian price for their produce and then exchange this produce for acceptable articles from the countries who trade with us and price our imports according to our Canadian standards.

In this way we can stay clear of the, so called, world price which has be-devilled Canadian overseas trade for so many years and build up a prosperous agriculture in Canada without interfering with the internal economy of other countries, to whom a similar course is open.

We are considering affiliation with the Trade Union Movement at the present time or failing that, a working agreement.

However, it would seem reasonable that farmers should be united not only Nationally but also internationally if their permanent welfare is to receive the attention it should, and I have been directed by my Executive to write you in the hope that the farmers of Canada (the West in particular) who to a certain extent have unknowingly been rivals to British farmers in the past, to the detriment of us both, wish to discover any means by which our mutual endeavors can be made to serve humanity and provide us with a fair living and security of tenure at the same time.

Our membership at present is over 20,000 and there are about 100,000 farmers in Alberta. Our dues are \$1.00 yearly with local and District fees in addition. We have a monthly paper, the A. F. U. Bulletin, of which I am sending you a copy.

We should like to co-ordinate our efforts with yours and although we are only a Provincial organization on somewhat different lines to some of the other farmer bodies in Canada yet we are affiliated through the Alberta Federation of Agriculture with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture which is our National body.

I should appreciate hearing from you and will be glad to furnish any further information you may request and also would like to know your re-actions to any points I have mentioned.

Secretary,

ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

* * * *

NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION

45, Bedford Square,

LONDON, W. C. 1.

-August 15th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Nichols:-

Thank you for your letter of June 30th, which I have read with the greatest interest. We entirely agree with what you say as to the necessity for farmers "getting together" internationally as well as nationally, and as you will

see from the copy of our Interim Report on Post-War agricultural policy, which I enclose herewith, this is one of the goals towards which we are working.

You will probably be aware that a Conference of Empire farmers was held in Sydney, N. S. W., in 1938, which was attended by farmer-representatives of all the Dominions and of this Union. We are hopeful that in the not too far distant future it will be possible to arrange a similar conference, as we are fully convinced that the time is ripe for an interchange of views now that we are in the midst of planning our post-war policy. You will see from our Interim Report that, basically, the Union's views are similar to those set out in your letter, and that we are endeavouring to bring home to the general public how important it is from a national and an international standpoint to have a sound, healthy agriculture.

If, after reading our Interim Report, there are any further points which you would like to raise, we shall be only too pleased to do our best to answer them.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. Knowles, President.

That old saying that "good things are wrapped up in small parcels" certainly applies to the small booklet entitled "Action Program" put out by our Organization. I am indeed pleased to state that Mr. M. Gilliland, our newly elected M.L.A. for the Peace River Constituency, needed no persuasion to put his signature to the Pledge. Mr. Gilliland is a resident of this North Land for over thirty years and has been engaged in farming throughout that period. He was at one time an active member of the U. F. A. and later transferred his allegiance to our own organization working faithfully and hard in its interest with the Kerndale Local. No man knows the conditions and the needs of the farmer more than he and knowing their need will work in the farmers' interest at every opportunity.

The membership of this North Land wish our friend success throughout the term that he will represent up in the Legislature.

T. SMART.

We would like all other locals to take similar action and get the candidates for the Federal election to sign.

For Sale

CHOICE QUALITY YORKSHIRES
from advance registered stock; weanlings, boars and gilts. My stock is from the best herds in Canada. For prices, etc., write
Mr. W. Dallaire, Mallaig, Alberta.

Car Allocation Responsibility

On April 26th, 1944, the Canadian Wheat Board removed its control over the allocation of cars among the shippers at stations in Manitoba and on May 5th, 1944, the same removal of control was applied to Saskatchewan and Alberta. When the Canadian Wheat Board dropped its control, the car cycle method of dividing cars was also dropped and the system then reverted to the Canada Grain Act, which is administered by the Board of Grain Commissioners.

Frankly, the Canadian Wheat Board was unable, in several years of trial, to find a method of car allocation that was satisfactory to all concerned. Eventually, we came to regard it as an impossible task.

Since May 5th, 1944, the ordering and placement of cars for grain at country points are in the hands of the shippers and the railway companies and the methods through which they operate are under the administration of the Board of Grain Commissioners. The Car-order book is part of machinery provided by the Canada Grain Act.

The role of the Canadian Wheat Board now is to draw the attention of the railway companies to those delivery points that are in serious need of cars to provide space for delivery of their quotas. We carry out this role through reports from agents and quota questionnaires. When a good demand exists for certain grades and kind of grain as against certain other grades and kind of grain, then we have to make sure that the grains and grades being loaded are of the type needed to fill the demand.

Once the cars are put into a delivery point for grain, we do not decide which of the shippers gets the privilege of loading out. Consequently, any complaints with regard to the division of cars at a delivery point are not within our jurisdiction.

Yours truly,

(R. M. Mahoney)

Supervisor, Transportation and Quotas.
Canadian Wheat Board.

Posters Re A.F.U. Meetings

Head Office has a good supply of meeting posters on hand which we shall be glad to supply to our secretaries and organizers upon request.

These posters have a picture cartoon in the centre which immediately calls attention to the fact that it is an A.F.U. poster and will draw attention to your A.F.U. meeting notice in a crowd of other posters.

Write for the number you need.

WORMS IN PIGS

Internal parasites are now very common in swine and cause much unthriftiness and heavy loss. Pigs of from two to fourteen weeks of age are more susceptible to worm infestation than are older pigs. The symptoms are loss of appetite, unthriftiness, coughing, occasional vomiting, and, in some cases, pneumonia may develop.

Swine that are infested with worms should be properly treated. A preparation of Tetrachlorethylene, commonly sold under the name of Nema capsules, is very good for small pigs. For larger pigs, 30 to 60 drops of Oil of Chenopodium, depending on the size of the pig, is frequently used. A simple method of giving this oil is to mix it with castor oil then stir it in with the feed. The pig should be starved for 24 hours before treatment.

Phenothiazine has recently been shown to be very effective in eradicating round worms in swine. The drug can be obtained in powdered form and mixed with the feed. Starving previous to treatment is not necessary. The dosage is as follows:

Swine up to 25 lbs.	5 grams
Swine 25 - 50 lbs.	9 grams
Swine 50 - 100 lbs.	12 grams
Swine 100 - 200 lbs.	20 grams

Worm infestation can be prevented by proper sanitation. The pigs should be run on new land every year and old hog runs and pastures should be ploughed. The floors and walls of hog houses should be frequently scrubbed with scalding water to which lye at the rate of one pound to each 30 gallons of water has been added. Farrowing pens should be cleaned out every day when in use and the litter should be moved completely away from the buildings.

If worms are controlled the pigs will be healthier and they will make faster gains and develop into animals that will produce high quality Wiltshire sides.

Effectiveness of Legume Bacteria

The importance of the proper inoculation of seed peas with legume bacteria has been widely demonstrated in central Alberta this year, states N. N. Bentley, Supervisor of Crop Improvement. Many farmers in the area between Wetaskiwin and Westlock are growing peas on a considerable acreage for the first time this year. Under such conditions the soil will not naturally possess the bacteria required to inoculate the pea plants. Where pea seed was not inoculated, growing plants now appear pale green in color. They lack the growth and seed production evident in inoculated fields. Several test plots laid down last spring now indicate that inoculation of the seed is the determining factor between success and crop failure.

Canada's Supply of Sugar "Bad"

OTTAWA.—A prices board spokesman Tuesday night described Canada's sugar supply position as "bad" and said it might even become worse as the demands of the liberated countries of Europe eat into the sugar stockpiles of the United Nations.

Commenting on a report from the dominion bureau of statistics that Canadian sugar production increased 69,337,805 pounds in 1943 to 870,557,020, the spokesman said the upturn in production would "definitely not be reflected in an increase" in the Canadian ration of eight ounces per person per week.

"There certainly won't be an increase in the ration before the end of the year, at least," he added.

He pointed out Canada produces only 20% of her own needs.

Pembina Valley Flood Relief Fund

Sept. 6th.	Local No. 530.....	\$17.00
Sept. 6th.	Local No. 542.....	3.00
Sept. 6th.	Mr. F. Misky, Westeros.....	2.00
Sept. 8th.	Local No. 292.....	33.00
Sept. 11th.	Local No. 600.....	21.50
	Local No. 603.....	15.00
Sept. 13th.	Local No. 23.....	45.25
Sept. 14th.	Local No. 61.....	75.00
Sept. 16th.	Local No. 190.....	41.25
Sept. 20th.	Local No. 267.....	14.50
Sept. 21st.	Pembridge Ball Club.....	79.00
Sept. 22nd.	Local No. 5.....	26.00
Sept. 25th.	Local No. 580.....	34.75
Sept. 26th.	Local No. 577.....	34.50
Sept. 26th.	Mr. Pete Nelson, Brightview.....	2.00
Sept. 27th.	Mr. A. M. McDonald.....	20.00
Sept. 27th.	Local No. 250.....	10.00
Sept. 29th.	Local No. 77.....	4.00
Sept. 30th.	Local No. 30.....	6.50
Sept. 30th.	Local No. 255.....	133.65
Oct. 5th.	C. Lubchynsky, Alphen Siding.....	2.00
Oct. 5th.	F. Schubert, Alphen Siding.....	1.00
Oct. 5th.	N. Sawchuk, Alphen Siding.....	1.00

Purebred Registered Yorkshires

Weanlings, bred and open gilts, boars. The kind that will grade "A" and bring you a premium. The best is none too good for a Union member. Come and make your own selection.

P. H. ASHBY & SON,
Route 3, South Edmonton.

Perennial Sow Thistle Control

Perennial sow thistle is a very troublesome weed in the more humid parts of the province. Profitable cropping is rendered impossible where whole fields are infested with this weed. In addition, these infested areas provide a steady supply of seed which is readily blown to other fields within a wide radius, increasing the difficulty in keeping any land in that district free from this pest.

Sow thistle, if cut when in flower if in full bloom, will still mature seeds. The Field Crops Branch collected a number of sow thistle blooms, allowed them to dry, and had germination tests made on the seeds that had formed. The average germination was approximately 60%. From these results it is clearly evident that if sow thistles are cut at the full bloom stage they must be raked and burned to destroy the seeds.

A successful method of controlling perennial sow thistle is by plowing immediately after the crop is removed in the fall and cultivation to kill any shoots that appear before the freeze-up. This treatment also destroys any seedlings which may have appeared from seed produced during the summer and is effective in keeping land free of this weed.

He Would Like An Explanation

(A letter in the Calgary Albertan)

Would it be possible to publish the following and if possible have the powers that be, explain why it should be so.

I went overseas in 1939 with the Canadian First Division. At the time of my enlistment I was farming a quarter section of land in northern Alberta. This I homesteaded from 1930, during all the years of depression. I never went into debt nor was I once on relief but God alone knows sometimes how I existed. Other fellows who homesteaded during those years will have a good idea, but I'm sure the authorities for the rehabilitation scheme haven't.

Anyway, September '39 rolled around and I enlisted at the ripe old age of 37 and the following December went overseas. I hadn't much done on my place, but I had the best neighbors in the world and as good land as any in Canada.

* * * *

While serving overseas I read of all the benefits a returned man would get and kept patting myself on the back and thinking my worries were over. In June, 1943, the First Division sailed for action but by now the age limit had been lowered to 40 and along with hundreds of others I was kicked out after nearly four years with some of the best guys in the world. To say that some of us were hurt is putting it mildly, but I thought it all for the best.

During this time I had had about \$1,000.00 stopped from my pay, and having read of the price ceiling in Canada, figured that with a little help from the government I would be semi-independent when I got back.

By this time I was reconciled to the fact that I would never see action and one fine morning I found myself aboard ship on my way back home. On my arrival in Calgary I got 30 days' leave with ration money at 50 cents a day. I stayed two days in Edmonton, the room cost me \$1.25 and three meals averaged 50 cents each, making a grand total of \$2.50 per diem. This was the beginning of my doubts of a hero's welcome.

I was going on my 30 days' leave with the idea of getting prepared for my discharge. The first thing I needed on my farm was water. Previous to enlistment I had had a dug well but it was caved in. Never mind; I had \$1,000 saved by stopping 50 percent of my \$1.30 per day over a months so I would get one drilled. Before the war this would cost \$50 to \$75, so imagine my surprise when after a period of four years and three months I was asked \$300.

* * * *

I set aside my well for the time being and my place of abode being neglected for such a length of time was no longer fit for such as I. During the years of depression I had had lumber sawn and hauled it 12 miles for \$10 a thousand, and then it had to be hand picked. I had thought that owing to the war the price would be greatly increased and I would have to pay \$35 or \$40 a thousand, but here I got a pleasant surprise; lumber was only \$65 or \$70 a thousand, if you could get it.

By now I was beginning to think my \$1,000 wasn't so much. Should I build a small house and get me a well I would be broke, but suddenly a great idea struck me. The government had a rehabilitation scheme for such as I. Overseas they had told us that never again if a man were willing to work, would he have to snivel and crawl. Any farmer who wished to return to the land could get this aid. A man could get a farm up to \$4,800 with \$1,200 added for equipment, etc. I figured if a man had nothing and could get this aid, it was a sure thing that a fellow who had kept his place through thick and thin would get the \$1,200 as this was a free-gift after 10 years.

I still had an awful lot to get with the \$1,200, but I had my farm with a house and well and I wouldn't owe anyone a cent.

* * * *

Determined to hear what the board had to say on the subject, I went to Edmonton. Maybe with being such a good boy and not wanting the \$4,800 I might get a little more aid. The official was nice but there was nothing he could do about

it, I had to take the \$4,800 farm before I could get the \$1,200. By this time I was sadly disillusioned. All my farming life I have seen the grief of a farmer who has a load of debt, yet to get the \$1,200 they would make me go \$4,800 in debt. Guys like I have to throw up good land and neighbors if we refuse to shoulder this debt. There might be good points in the scheme, but as far as I'm concerned it is a headache, so is my farm, so are my \$1,000. I think I'll go on relief because I can't see how it pays to try and help yourself.

A Disillusioned Returned Man.
Calgary, Alberta.

Packing Plant Strike

As we go to press the strike possibility in the packing plant industry has grown more threatening in the last few days. The following is a short account of what led to the present situation:

In the first place a slow-down strike at the plant of Canada Packers in Edmonton was initiated by the United Packing House Workers of America (CIO) to compel another vote to be taken to see which Union had the majority of the workers so as to become the bargaining agent for the workers with the company. This Union was not satisfied with the award which had been made during the summer when a board of arbitration, appointed by the Dominion Government, gave a majority decision that a vote of the employees to decide which Union had most adherents should not be held until next January. A minority report favoured another vote being taken much earlier (in August past). Con-

vinced that they had a majority of the workers with them the CIO took votes among the workers to find how many were in favour of a strike in order to obtain a master agreement that would give them a raised scale of wages all across the Dominion, of 75c per hour, Union shop and 44-hour week.

The Alberta Farmers' Union has had a meeting with the leaders of both Unions and pointed out that the farmers will be hardest hit in the event of a strike. We are willing to back both Unions in a reasonable wage increase (provided this is not followed by a reduction in the price paid to producers) combined with a resumption of work and abandoning of the slow-down tactics. The affiliates of the Trade and Labor Congress are asking 10c per hour increase but will not strike even if they do not obtain it at present. Both Unions are agreeable that the Alberta Farmers' Union make a recommendation to the Dominion Government that the Packing Industry be declared an essential war industry so that it will come under the jurisdiction of the National Labour Board.

We will therefore press the Dominion Government to put the industry under the War Measures Act as this is agreeable to both Unions. The Dominion Government seem to be shirking their responsibilities and are trying to place them on the Provincial Government.

We intend to try and have a conference with the Provincial Government and are working with the Alberta Livestock Co-Operative and Alberta Federation of Agriculture to recommend that in the event of other agreements failing that the Packing Houses be declared an essential war industry and come under the control of the War Measures Act, as we are determined that nothing preventable must be allowed to interfere with the processing of the farmers' livestock as soon as it is delivered.

Our Action Program

We wish to call the attention of all our readers to the Farmers' Action Program which appeared as a full page ad. in the Western Producer of October 5th.

The Western Producer has a circulation of 100,000, mostly farmers, and we hope by this means to rouse farmers all across the Dominion to the realization that Union Action is necessary to ensure fair prices for Agriculture in the post-war period.

We want all our members who can write a letter, to write to the Open Forum, Western Producer, Saskatoon, and make some comment on the subject matter in the advertisement.

By this simple little action you can keep the issue alive and render an immense service to yourselves and the cause of agriculture.

It's up to you.

GET IT FROM

A. F. U. BULLETIN

The Only Farmers Union Paper in Alberta

This Form is for Your Convenience — Mail It Today

A. F. U. BULLETIN,

102 La Fleche Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find 50 cents for one year (25c for six months) Subscription to the A. F. U. Bulletin.

NAME (Print)

ADDRESS